A New Urban Ecology

Modeling human communities as integral parts of ecosystem poses special problems for the development and testing of ecological theory.

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LTER: Long-Term Ecological Research Project

Urban Ecosystems are Dependent

- The ratio of production to consumption is less than 1 (Cities, like people, are consumers)
- A city is a heterotrophic system, relying mostly on external sources of energy

Urban ecosystems

A. The Urban Footprint (Ecological Footprint): “the footprint of a city is the total area of productive land required to support its activities in a sustainable way.”
Variability of Urban Ecology in Space and Time (Arid and Semi-arid cities)

Urban Ecosystems are Dynamic and Changing

Stretching current ecological theory (qualitative) to include urban ecosystems: “Perhaps the tools already developed for understanding the emergence of different life-history strategies can be extended…to people”